



LHAQ'TEMISH  
FOUNDATION

## PRESS RELEASE

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LUMMI, WA – As cities across Washington State shattered all-time record high temperatures this summer, technicians from EcoTech Solar were onsite at Lummi Nation School to install a 50-kW solar array on the school gymnasium. Thanks to efforts by the Lummi Solar Team and staff from Spark Northwest, a Green Power Grant was awarded by Puget Sound Energy for the project.

The hallmark location is hosted by the Lummi Nation School. Bernie Thomas, Lummi Nation Education Director, says “Green energy may not yet possess the panacea solution to global warming, but incremental, positive steps like the Solar Project at Lummi Nation School, and partnerships with NWIC faculty, help the tribal member students envisage solutions to incubate and grow. As our students make their way into their individual lives, they understand that reversing climate change is in the hands of their generation.”

Chairman Lawrence Solomon, Lummi Indian Business Council, Lummi Nation, shares “The Skwekwel Project is a step forward in reducing the Lummi Nation’s dependence on non-renewable energy sources and moving the community toward our goal of Energy Sovereignty.”

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In August, these efforts will continue as LIBC and NWIC faculty and students' partner to complete a microgrid feasibility study with grant funding from BIA's Energy and Mineral Development Program. The results of this study will be used to apply for grant funding to install a microgrid for increased Energy Resilience and Independence.

LIBC will also install solar arrays on the Tribal Administration building, Early Learning Center and CARE building with support from the Washington Clean Energy Fund 3 Low-Income Community Solar Deployment Program and a rate case settlement in PSE territory. Energy savings from these installations will be distributed to the Lummi community through grant programs provided by Lhaq'temish Foundation.

The Lhaq'temish Foundation (formerly known as the Lummi Nation Service Organization), tribally chartered nonprofit 501(c)3 of the Lummi Nation, is the fiscal sponsor of the Skwekwel Project.

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